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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,229	01/20/2006	Martin Brodt	710.1036	9930

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EXAMINER	
OMGBA, ESSAMA	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3726	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
07/09/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ddk@ddkpatent.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/565,229	BRODT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Essama Omgba	3726	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 May 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *10-12,15-21 and 25-34* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *10-12,15-21 and 25-34* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on may 29, 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 10-12, 16-21, and 25-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Miller et al. (US Patent 6,584,671) and Shtikan et al. (US Patent 7,192,624).

With regards to claims 10, 11, 20 and 21, Applicant , at pages 1 and2 of the specification to be known as AAPA, discloses a process for producing a press-hardened component from a semi-finished product made of unhardened, hot-formable steel sheet, wherein a steel semi-finished product pre-coated with a corrosion prevention layer is formed into a component blank using a cold-forming process, the component blank is subsequently trimmed and heating and press-hardening the trimmed component blank by hot-forming. AAPA does not disclose covering the press-hardened component blank

with a corrosion-prevention layer in a coating step. However it is known to cover a component whose edges have been cut during the forming process with a coating of corrosion prevention-layer so as to protect the cut edges from corrosion as attested by Miller et al., see column 1, lines 16-31. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to have covered the press-hardened component blank of AAPA with a corrosion-prevention layer, in light of the teachings of Miller et al., in order to provide the trimmed edges of the press-hardened component blank with a corrosion-prevention layer. Although Miller does not disclose the corrosion-prevention layer being deposited by thermal diffusion, however it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the method of covering the press-hardened component blank with the corrosion-preventing layer will depend on the type of corrosion-preventing material used. Miller et al. teaches using an epoxy resin to provide the corrosion protection layer, however other corrosion protection layers for protection iron or iron alloys such as Zinc type layers are known , and these layers are typically deposited by thermal diffusion as attested by Shtikan et al., see column 1, lines 19-27. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have used a thermal diffusion process to coat the press-hardened component blank with a corrosion-preventing layer in the case where the corrosion-preventing layer was Zinc. Applicant should note that the press-hardened components of AAPA are bodywork components.

With regards to claim 12, Applicant should note cold-forming processes such as drawing are old and well known in the art.

For claims 16-19, Applicant should note that the steps of cleaning the surface of a component by blasting the surface with glass particles prior to the coating step, and conditioning the component after the coating, are old and well known in the art.

For claims 25-30, Applicant should note that such method steps are old and well known in the art.

For claims 31-34, applicant should note that it is within the general knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art to choose the optimum parameters of the diffusion process in order to provide an effective corrosion-preventing coating on the press-hardened component blank.

4. Claims 15 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA/Miller et al./Shtikan et al. as applied to claims 10 and 20 above, and further in view of Warichet et al. (US Patent 6,921,439).

AAPA/Miller et al./Shtikan discloses a process for producing a press-hardened component as shown above. Although AAPA/Miller et al./Shtikan et al. does not explicitly disclose dry cleaning the press-hardened component blank prior to the coating step, however it is dry clean steel articles by before such coating step in order to assure adherence, continuity and uniformity of the Zinc coating as attested by Warichet et al., see column 1, lines16-26. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to have dry-cleaned the press-hardened component blank of AAPA/Miller et al./Shtikan et al. prior to coating in order to assure adherence, continuity and uniformity of the Zinc coating.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed April 30, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have applied the Shtikan thermal diffusion process to coat press-hardened, trimmed component blanks discussed in AAPA, or be used with the epoxy resin coatings of miller, or to any combination of the two, the examiner submits that the method of covering the press-hardened component blank with the corrosion-preventing layer will depend on the type of corrosion-preventing material used. Miller et al. teaches using an epoxy resin to provide the corrosion protection layer, however other corrosion protection layers for protection iron or iron alloys such as Zinc type layers are known , and these layers are typically deposited by thermal diffusion as attested by Shtikan et al., see column 1, lines 19-27. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have used a thermal diffusion process to coat the press-hardened component blank with a corrosion-preventing layer in the case where the Zinc corrosion-preventing layer was used instead of an epoxy resin material.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Essama Omgba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4532. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6:30, 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571) 272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Essama Omgba/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3726

eo
July 2, 2008